

# SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL

## SPECIAL AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee held in the Sedgemoor Room,  
Bridgwater House, Bridgwater on Thursday 9 March 2023 at 2.30pm

**Councillors Present:** Julie Pay (Chairman)  
Will Human (Deputy Chairman)  
Hilary Bruce Alan Matthews  
Mike Facey Diogo Rodrigues  
Liz Leavy

**Town & Parish Council Representative:** Mr Julian Taylor

**Apologies:** Cllrs Rachael Lilley & Lisa Methley, Mr G Lewis & Mrs V Horman

### 42. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

### 43. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

No members of the public had registered to speak at the meeting.

### 44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 45. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/2021

Members were presented with a report updating the previously audited Statement of Accounts for 2020/2021; this was due to the treatment of investment property income that meant that some of the 2020/21 along with the 2019/20 comparators required a change.

These were the final audited Statement of Accounts for 2020/2021.

#### **Resolved:**

1. To approve the change to the Statement of Accounts for the year 2020/21.
2. To authorise that the S151 Officer sign the Letter of Representation

### 46. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/2022

The committee received a presentation on the Statement of Accounts for 2021/2022 and the S151 officer highlighted certain areas of note contained within the accounts. It was noted that the accounts had now been audited by the Council's external auditors and have provided a formal opinion.

**Resolved:**

1. To authorise that the S151 Officer sign the Letter of Representation
2. To approve the Statement of Accounts for the year 2021/22.

**47. AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT**

This was a report presented from Sedgemoor District Council's external auditors Grant Thornton with one adjustment to be made to the financial statements that resulted in an adjustment in the council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement with the details detailed in Appendix C.

It was confirmed that after this meeting, it was anticipated that there would be 5 recommendations and these were detailed within appendix A of the report.

**Resolved:**

To note Grant Thornton's findings following their audit of the Council's financial statements for 2021/2022.

**48. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Annual Governance statement for 2021/2022 as presented by the Responsible Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) was required to be carried out as a review of the effectiveness of the organisations internal control. The statement had been compiled based on the findings of a range of audit reports over the last 12 months, however it was noted that there were no additional projects or actions due to Local Government Reorganisation.

**Resolved:**

After consideration of the content, that the Annual Governance Statement as attached at Appendix A be approved.

**49. VALUE FOR MONEY**

Following a review by the auditors of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources with only one area of significant weakness highlighted; this being Treasury Management Activity which was not presented due to pressure of other work being undertaken as a result of LGR. It was noted that any recommendations would go forward for the new council to consider.

**Resolved:**

To note the report and issues highlighted.

**50. ASSESSMENT OF GOING CONCERN STATUS**

The report presented to the committee from the Section 1512 Officer was their assessment of the Council as a “Going Concern” for the purposes of approving the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22. It was noted that this assessment still needed to be undertaken even with the advent of the new authority as from 1 April 2023.

All assets, services and liabilities will be transferred to the new council and it was noted that all 5 of the authorities would be undertaking the same assessment.

**Resolved:**

To note the assessment made of the Council’s status as a “going concern” for the purposes of the Statement of Accounts 2021/2022.

The meeting ended at 3.45pm.

**CHAIRMAN**